(b) the quantity of cotton pressed into bales; and marketed, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b) During the current cotton season (1993-94) the cotton production is estimated at 125 lakh bales. Of this, about 92.35 lakh bales are estimated to have been pressed out of the total estimated arrivals of 98.37 lakh bales as on 2-3-94, leaving about 26.63 lakh bales still to arrive. The state-wise break-up is as under:—

(Figures in lakh bales of 170 Kg.)

Sta	Estimated production	Estimated arrivals as on 2-3-94	Pressing as on 2-3-94	Estimated cotton yet to arrive
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan	38	31.96	30.34	6.54
Gujarat	19 5	11.28	9.59	8.22
Maharashtra	19	14.81	12.58	4.195
Madhya Pradesh	12.5	11.52	9.79	9.195
Andhra Pradesh	20.5	17.03	14.98	2.875
Karnataka	8.5	7.05	5.99	1.45
Tamil Nadu	5.5	3.20	2.72	2.304
Others	1.00	0.94	0.80	0.06
Total	125	98.371	86.79	26.629

Advisory Committee of Experts on Handloom Sector

2222. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up an Advisory Committee of experts to identify the items to be reserved for handloom sector;

(b) if so, by when the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(c) what will be the main purpose of the Committee;

(d) to what extent the setting up of a Committee is likely to help the handloom sector to compete with the powerlooms which have been encroaching into the handloom industry;

(e) whether it is a fact that the major problem faced by the handloom industry is the non-availability of raw-material! and

(f) to what extent the Committee would go into this aspect also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee is likely to submit its report by end of April, 1994.

(c) and (d) The Committee shall make its recommendations on the nature of article or class of articles that may be reserved for exclusive production by handlooms after considering its following terms of references:—

I. the article or class of articles which is being produced by handlooms for mass consumption;

II. the article or class of articles which is being produced traditionally by handlooms;

III. the level of employment likely to be generated by the production of the article or class of articles referred to in clause (I) or clause (II) exclusively by handlooms;

IV. the protection of interests of persons engaged in handlooms industy and the need for the continued maintenance of the industry; and

V. such other matters as the Advisory Committee may thing fit.

(e) and (f) Availability of raw material at reasonable price constitutes one of the important problem of the handloom industry. The Committee can examine the problems, however, only in the light of its terms of reference as mentioned in para (c) and (e) above.

CBI inquiry into sale of Cotton by Maharashtra State Cotton Federation

2223. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had declared on 20th February 1994 at Nagpur that a CBI enquiry will be made into the transactions of sale of cotton by the Maharashtra State Cotton Federation;

(b) if so, by when the said enquiry is likely to begin;

(c) whether the Chairman of the Federation has recently refuted the Hon'ble Minister's charge; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to sort out this matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) While addressing the meeting of the Maharashtra Cotton Growers Association at Nagpur, the Minister of State for Textiles had referred to some alleged irregularities brought to his notice into the transactions of sale of cotton by the Maharashtra State Cotton Federation. He had stated that if required necessary enquiries would be made, therein. However, the Chairman of the Federation, has, in Press release, refuted the charges of alleged irregularities.

2224. [*Transferred to the 18th March, 1994.*]

India's quota of Yarn from EEC and USA

2225. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries, including India, receive a fixed quota off Yarn from EEC and USA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Governments of China and Pakistan are reported to have decided to return their unutilised quota of yarn to the donor countries during the current year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to approch EEC and USA for diversion of the said quota so returned by China and Pakistan for utilisation here;

(d) whether Government have also ascertained the views of the concerned industry in this regard; and

(e) if nat, what are the reasons therefor?